LEGISLATURE

Repeal plan up for debate

Lawmakers face bill to overturn vote

Associated Press

DENVER — The first of three legislative attempts to outlaw controversial Amendment 2 will be debated in the state Senate on Wednesday.

However, neither critics nor supporters of the amendment expect any of the bills to become law.

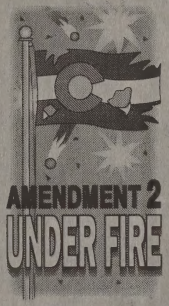
On Wednesday, Sen. Regis Groff, a Denver Democrat, is scheduled to debate his bill, which would place an outright repeal of Amendment 2 on the November ballot.

The hearing will mark the first time lawmakers hold a formal debate on the voter-approved amendment, which bans laws protecting gays, lesbians and bisexuals from discrimination based on their sexual orientation.

"We've been able to duck it up until now," Groff said. "Now, it's 'Here we come, baby.' This will be the first time."

There are two other proposed measures that would strike down Amendment 2. House Minority Leader Sam Williams, D-Breckenridge, has proposed a measure that would make it illegal to fire workers for their legal activities conducted away from the job.

And state Rep. Ken Chlouber, R-Leadville, has said he will introduce a similar measure that would ban most employers and landlords from taking any action based on a tenant's personal behavior.



Will Perkins, chairman of the Colorado Springs-based authors of Amendment 2, Colorado for Family Values, scoffed at the lawmakers' attempts.

"No politician in his right mind would go against the majority of the people," Perkins said. "Groff and Williams are from areas that didn't vote in the majority for the amendment, so maybe they are just trying to protect themselves in their district.

Perkins added that "we expect their attempts will die in committee."

Amendment 2 critics also don't put much faith in the bills.

"There is some sense of skepticism as to whether they will succeed," said Tony Ogden, executive director of Equality Colorado, a Denver-based group working to undo the amendment.

"Some people are saying, 'Why expend so much energy on a losing battle?' " he said.

Enforcement of Amendment 2 has been put on hold pending the outcome of a lawsuit challenging its legality under the U.S. Constitution.

> "It's hard to get the Legislature to undo a vote of the people."
>
> **Sen. Regis Groff**

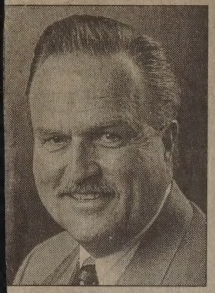
Groff's measure would erase Amendment 2 from the books. Two-thirds of both houses must approve the bill before it would go to a statewide vote.

"I don't have any real sense of how legislators feel about Amendment 2," Groff said. "I suspect it (Groff's bill) will have some pretty rough sailing. It's hard to get the Legislature to undo a vote of the people, and the Legislature probably did not count on the kind of difficulties Amendment 2 has caused our state."

Groff was referring to an economic boycott of Colorado that is being waged by some gay-rights activists.

One of the Senate committee members is MaryAnne Tebedo, a Colorado Springs Republican whose son, Kevin, serves as executive director for Colorado for Family Values.

OUNCIL CANDIDATES



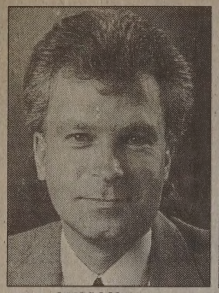
ED RASIMUS

■ **Age:** 50.

■ **Education:** Bachelor's degree in political science from the Illinois Institute of Technology; master's degree in political science from Auburn University; master's in international relations from Troy State University.

■ **Occupation:** Retired Air Force officer.

■ **Political experience:** Member of the board of trustees for the Pikes Peak Library District; served on the Underground (power lines) Policy Advisory Committee; member of Citizens Goals' Memorial Hospital Research Team; ran unsuccessfully for the District 2 seat in 1991.



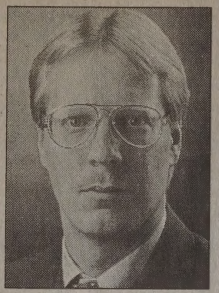
BILL GUMAN

■ **Age:**36.

■ **Education:** Associate's degree in agricultural science from the State University of New York; bachelor's degree in landscape horticulture and architecture from Colorado State University.

■ **Occupation:** Owns Guman/Hackworth Associates, a land planning and landscaping consulting firm.

■ **Political experience:** Member of the Colorado Springs Planning Commission; member of the city's Professional Design Review Committee; member of the Horticulture Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Department's Arborist Board.



BOB PEMBERTON

■ **Age:** 36.

■ **Education:** Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech.

■ **Occupation:** Principal software engineer at Digital Equipment Co.

■ **Political experience:** Co-chair of the Academy School District 20 Transportation Study Committee; delegate to state and local Republican conventions.

Gazette Telegraph

Colorado Springs City Council District 2

shot in hunting accident

Associated Press

CANON CITY — Fremont County authorities have found the body of a 15-year-old boy who they believe accidentally shot himself while hunting in the Colorado Acres area southwest of here.

James Schmid was reported missing Saturday evening after he failed to return from a hunting excursion near his home, Fremont County Sheriff's officers said.

Schmid's body was found Sunday afternoon about 100 yards from the family home, Detective Dale Rea said. It appears the boy had climbed a tree about a quarter mile from his home and was shot as he was pulling up his .22-caliber rifle, Rea said.

The bullet struck him under the right armpit and went through his shoulder. The boy managed to get out of the tree and struggle toward the house, Rea said. Searchers found his backpack, his gloves and his bloody jacket along a trail toward the house, he said.

Falcon school board to hold public hearing on year-round schooling

The Falcon school board will hold a public hearing Thursday and then vote on whether to adopt a modified year-round school calendar beginning in the fall.

The meeting is at 7:30 p.m. at Falcon Elementary School, 12050 Falcon Highway.

District officials began considering scheduling changes last fall after voters twice rejected bond issues to build additional classrooms.

The proposed calendar puts all students in class at one time and calls for uniform vacation periods. Classes would begin Aug. 5 and end May 27. Vacations would be Oct. 4-15, Dec. 21-Jan. 10 and March 14-25.

"This would be a way of phasing into it and allowing everyone to get used to having multiple vacations during a year," said Superintendent George Bolte.

If the district experiences significant growth in enrollment by January, a regular year-round program could be implemented at that time.

Springs woman in serious condition afte truck plunges off overpass in Oklahoma